

Introduced by Senator Rubio

August 15, 2011

Senate Joint Resolution No. 12—Relative to fatherhood.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 12, as introduced, Rubio. Fatherhood.

This measure would urge the President and the Congress to pursue a comprehensive approach to positive father involvement and mentoring for children that affirms that fathers and positive adult men are critical parts of the lives of children and to direct the funds and resources of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to the State of California as part of the White House Initiative on Fatherhood and Mentoring, as specified.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of California's children
- 2 is enhanced when mothers, fathers, and caregivers dedicate their
- 3 time and attention to their healthy development and growth; and
- 4 WHEREAS, California appreciates the many fathers who
- 5 support all aspects of their children's lives and demonstrate their
- 6 love and support through their actions and words; and
- 7 WHEREAS, California recognizes that at a time of reduced
- 8 resources, fathers must not be overlooked as an asset to their
- 9 children, families, and communities; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Organizations that serve the social and educational
- 11 interests of children must look to both fathers and mothers to
- 12 increase the positive influence that engaged and dedicated parents
- 13 provide for children; and

1 WHEREAS, Children with present and engaged fathers are more
2 likely to have close, enduring relationships than those whose fathers
3 are absent, and these relationships contribute to long-term
4 happiness, well-being, and social and academic success; and

5 WHEREAS, Children living apart from their biological fathers
6 often confront obstacles that place them at risk for increased drug
7 and alcohol use and reduced educational achievement; and

8 WHEREAS, Children with nonresident fathers are 54 percent
9 more likely to be poorer than their fathers; and

10 WHEREAS, The involvement of nonresident fathers in their
11 children's schools is particularly important for children in grades
12 6 through 12 and reduces the likelihood that children will ever be
13 suspended, expelled from school, or repeat a grade; and

14 WHEREAS, Research documents a positive connection between
15 the provision of child support by fathers and the well-being of
16 school-age children, particularly their cognitive development,
17 academic achievement, and behavior; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
19 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the President and
20 the Congress of the United States to pursue a comprehensive
21 approach to positive father involvement and mentoring for children
22 that affirms that fathers and positive adult men are critical parts
23 of the lives of children and to redirect the distribution of funds and
24 resources by the United States Department of Health and Human
25 Services to the State of California as part of the White House
26 Initiative on Fatherhood and Mentoring to assist underserved
27 children and men of color throughout the state; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
29 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
30 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
31 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
32 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
33 author for appropriate distribution.